Post 1/3/68

Protesters To Challenge Riot Law

Antiwar demonstrators held news conferences yesterday, challenging the House Committee on Un-American Activities to a television debate, announcing plans for a demonstration when the Committee resumes its hearings today, and disclosing plans to file a law suit challenging the antiriot provisions of the 1968 Civil Rights Act.

Group leaders said the suit would be filed in U.S. District Court in Chicago, where a grand jury is investigating to determine whether the new law was violated in the street demonstrations during the Democratic National Convention.

The law provides for a five-year prison sentence or a $5000 fine, or both, for anyone convicted of crossing state lines to promote, encourage or carry on a riot.

The group coupled announcement of the suit with criticism of the Justice Department, the FBI and the House Committee on Un-American Activities, which is holding hearings to investigate the disorders during the Chicago convention.

Spokesmen for the antiwar groups said the antiriot law was "too broad" in its provisions and was unconstitutional.